IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-14 (Canceled).

15. (new) A therapeutic HCV vaccine composition.

16. (new) A therapeutic HCV vaccine composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one HCV single or specific oligomeric envelope E1 protein or a part thereof; and at least one of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or vehicle.

17. (new) A therapeutic HCV vaccine composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a combination of at least two HCV single or specific oligomeric envelope E1 proteins or parts thereof wherein said at least two E1 proteins or parts thereof are derived from different HCV genotypes, subtypes or isolates; and at least one of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or vehicle.

18. (new) A therapeutic HCV composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one HCV single or specific oligomeric envelope E1 protein or a part thereof; and at least one of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or vehicle.

19. (new) A therapeutic HCV composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a combination of at least two HCV single or specific oligomeric envelope E1

proteins or parts thereof wherein said at least two E1 proteins or parts thereof are derived from different HCV genotypes or subtypes or isolates; and at least one of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or vehicle.

20. (new) The therapeutic HCV composition according to any of claims 17 to 19 wherein said E1 protein is E1s.

21. (new) The therapeutic HCV composition according to any of claims 17 to 19 wherein said E1 protein or part thereof is produced by a recombinant host.

22. (new) The therapeutic HCV composition according to claim 21 wherein said recombinant host is a recombinant mammalian cell, a recombinant yeast cell or a recombinant virus.

23. (new) The therapeutic HCV composition according to any of claims 17 to 19 which is therapeutically effective in a mammal infected with a HCV genotype or subtype homologous to the HCV genotype or subtype, or HCV genotypes or subtypes, from which said E1 protein or proteins, or parts thereof, are derived.

24. (new) The therapeutic HCV composition according to any of claims 17 to 19 which is therapeutically effective in a mammal infected with a HCV genotype or subtype heterologous the HCV genotype or subtype, or HCV genotypes or subtypes, from which said E1 protein or proteins, or parts thereof, are derived.

25. (new) The therapeutic HCV composition according to any of claims 17 to 19 wherein the cysteines of said HCV envelope E1 proteins or parts thereof are blocked.

26. (new) The therapeutic HCV composition according to any of claims 17 to 19 to which said HCV envelope E1 proteins or parts thereof are added as viral-like particles.

27. (new) A method for inducing an immune response in a chronic HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV composition according to any of claims 15 to 19 to said mammal.

28. (new) The method according to claim 27 wherein said immune response is a humoral and/or a cellular immune response.

29. (new) A method for clearing HCV viral antigens from the liver of an HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV composition according to any of claims 15 to 19 to said mammal.

30. (new) The method according to claim 29 wherein said HCV viral antigens are HCV Core and/or HCV E2 antigens.

31. (new) A method for normalizing the levels of liver enzymes in the serum of a HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV composition according to any of claims 15 to 19 to said mammal.

32. (new) The method according to claim 31 wherein said liver enzymes are ALT and/or gammaGT.

33. (new) A method for improving the histology of the liver of a HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV composition according to any of claims 15 to 19 to said mammal.

34. (new) A method for improving liver disease in a HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV composition according to any of claims 15 to 19 to said mammal.

35. (new) A method for improving liver inflammation in a HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV composition according to any of claims 15 to 19 to said mammal.

36. (new) A method of treating a mammal infected with HCV comprising administering a therapeutic HCV composition according to claim 15.

37. (new) A method of treating a mammal infected with HCV comprising administering a therapeutic HCV composition according to any of claims 16 to 19.

38. (new) The method according to claim 37 wherein said mammal is infected with a HCV of a genotype or subtype homologous to the HCV genotype or subtype, or genotypes or subtypes, from which the E1 proteins or parts thereof comprised in said composition are derived.

39. (new) The method according to claim 37 wherein said mammal is infected with a HCV of a genotype or subtype heterologous to the HCV genotype or subtype, or genotypes or subtypes, from which the E1 proteins or parts thereof comprised in said composition are derived.

40. (new) The method according to claim 36 or 37 wherein said mammal is a human.

41. (new) The therapeutic HCV composition according to claim 23 wherein said mammal is a human.

42. (new) The therapeutic HCV composition according to claim 24 wherein said mammal is a human.